

NOSTALGIA

Land Army girls are reunited and
Fyfe's factory is destroyed by fire

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK
THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS**
ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES
FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

1985

Thirty former Land Army girls travelled from all parts of the country for a unique get-together at Swaffham Prior House where they stayed during the Second World War.

Joan Thomas remembered her attic room in the early 17th-century house while Betty Canham of Wicken recalled getting up at six in the morning.

The reunion was sparked by a list of Land Army rules which were pasted to one of the attic rooms and discovered by the Marshall family when they moved there two years ago.

The organiser Joan Bradley said she was overwhelmed to see everybody after all that time.



Swaffham Prior House



Stace's Dress Shop in 1909

1951

The announcement of the closing down of Messrs George Stace Ltd's Petty Cury store marks the closing of yet one more old-established firm that has filled a special niche in the local fashion trade for many years.

The name had come to stand for a good, solid, middle-class trade.

It was not necessarily a smart one, but it met the needs of a definite section of the community. It catered for the matron, and for the essentially well-to-do family of both town and county.

1907

When Charles Darwin came to receive his Honorary Degree in the Senate House, years ago, undergraduates rose to the occasion.

A thin chord had been quietly run across from one gallery to the other and, just as the orator began his choicest Latin praise, there suddenly slid down and swung, exactly over Darwin's head, the huge airy imitation of an ape dangling a rusty chain labelled 'missing link'.

The laughter baffled all the efforts of the proctors to maintain order, even the grave and reverend dons could not help joining in.

1909

The Rev J.C. Rust has been vicar of Soham for 35 years.

He was a bachelor when he came to the vicarage and did the first of the many wise things he has done as an example to his parishioners – he married his cousin and had five children.

He has been very active: when the parish council was formed in 1895, he became the first chairman.

He also took up Esperanto and preached the first sermon ever in

that new language at Geneva in 1896.

1915

The smart sentence (three months hard labour) passed upon a man at Cambridge this week for influencing young men not to join the forces of the Crown will be pronounced by the general public as quite just.

It should act as a warning to those ne'er-do-wells who, too indolent and unpatriotic to offer their services for their country, hang about street corners and endeavour to dissuade other willing loyalists from doing their duty.

A more dastardly or cowardly action at the present time it is difficult to imagine and anyone indulging in such practices may be sure of but little leniency at the hands of the magistrates if brought to book.



HIGH STREET, SOHAM